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culturing a bacterial strain according to claim 17 with a substrate under conditions
suitable to produce a medicinal product.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein the medicinal product is a vaccine.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that no prohibited new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment and that claims 11-22 are drawn to the same invention as claims 1-10 of International Application PCT/FR99/03270. The changes to the claims represent changes in formalities so as to bring the claims into compliance with the rules of practice in the United States, such as "use" claims (original claims 7-10) have been re-written as method claims; standard claim terminology has been adopted i.e., "characterized in that" has been replaced by comprising (see original claims 1 and 6) and to adopt standard grammatical constructions (see all the original claims). The limitation with regard to genome size present in original claim 1 has been removed from claim 11 and placed in dependent claim 12. These changes do not narrow the scope of the claimed subject matter present and examined in the corresponding International Application.

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Respectfully submitted,
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